WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for managing a multicast conference call, comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals at a local endpoint participating in a multicast conference call among the local endpoint and one or more remote endpoints, the plurality of signals comprising a local signal and one or more remote signals, the local signal associated with the local endpoint, each remote signal associated with a remote endpoint of the one or more remote endpoints;

determining a plurality of metric ratings, each metric rating reflecting an importance of a signal of the plurality of signals, the plurality of metric ratings comprising a local metric rating and one or more remote metric ratings, the local metric rating corresponding to the local signal, each remote metric rating corresponding to a remote signal of the one or more remote signals;

comparing the local metric rating and the one or more remote metric ratings; and

selecting a subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison in order to manage the multicast conference call.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

mixing the remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals; and

outputting the mixed remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal; and

transmitting the local signal if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the plurality of metric ratings comprises:

establishing one or more metric values for a signal of the plurality of signals according to a metric appended to the signal; and

determining a metric rating for the signal in accordance with the one or more metric values.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the plurality of metric ratings comprises:

generating a metric vector for each signal of the plurality of signals; and

applying a function to each metric vector to generate a metric rating for each signal.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison comprises:

identifying a predetermined number of highest ranked metric ratings; and

selecting the signals corresponding to the highest ranked metric ratings.

7. A system for managing a multicast conference call, comprising:

one or more inputs operable to receive a plurality of signals at a local endpoint participating in a multicast conference call among the local endpoint and one or more remote endpoints, the plurality of signals comprising a local signal and one or more remote signals, the local signal associated with the local endpoint, each remote signal associated with a remote endpoint of the one or more remote endpoints;

a metric extractor coupled to the one or more inputs and operable to determine a plurality of metric ratings, each metric rating reflecting an importance of a signal of the plurality of signals, the plurality of metric ratings comprising a local metric rating and one or more remote metric ratings, the local metric rating corresponding to the local signal, each remote metric rating corresponding to a remote signal of the one or more remote signals; and

a comparator coupled to the metric extractor and operable to:

compare the local metric rating and the one or more remote metric ratings; and

select a subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison in order to manage the multicast conference call.

8. The system of Claim 7, further comprising an audio mixer operable to:

mix the remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals; and

output the mixed remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals.

9. The system of Claim 7, further comprising a transmission controller operable to:

determine if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal; and

transmit the local signal if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal.

10. The system of Claim 7, wherein the metric extractor is operable to determine the plurality of metric ratings by:

establishing one or more metric values for a signal of the plurality of signals according to a metric appended to the signal; and

determining a metric rating for the signal in accordance with the one or more metric values.

11. The system of Claim 7, wherein the metric extractor is operable to determine the plurality of metric ratings by:

generating a metric vector for each signal of the plurality of signals; and

applying a function to each metric vector to generate a metric rating for each signal.

12. The system of Claim 7, wherein the comparator is operable to select the subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison by:

identifying a predetermined number of highest ranked metric ratings; and

selecting the signals corresponding to the highest ranked metric ratings.

13. Logic for managing a multicast conference call, the logic embodied in a medium and operable to:

receive a plurality of signals at a local endpoint participating in a multicast conference call among the local endpoint and one or more remote endpoints, the plurality of signals comprising a local signal and one or more remote signals, the local signal associated with the local endpoint, each remote signal associated with a remote endpoint of the one or more remote endpoints;

determine a plurality of metric ratings, each metric rating reflecting an importance of a signal of the plurality of signals, the plurality of metric ratings comprising a local metric rating and one or more remote metric ratings, the local metric rating corresponding to the local signal, each remote metric rating corresponding to a remote signal of the one or more remote signals;

compare the local metric rating and the one or more remote metric ratings; and

select a subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison in order to manage the multicast conference call.

14. The logic of Claim 13, further operable to:

mix the remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals; and

output the mixed remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals.

15. The logic of Claim 13, further operable to:

determine if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal; and

transmit the local signal if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal.

16. The logic of Claim 13, operable to determine the plurality of metric ratings by:

establishing one or more metric values for a signal of the plurality of signals according to a metric appended to the signal; and

determining a metric rating for the signal in accordance with the one or more metric values.

17. The logic of Claim 13, operable to determine the plurality of metric ratings by:

generating a metric vector for each signal of the plurality of signals; and

applying a function to each metric vector to generate a metric rating for each signal.

18. The logic of Claim 13, operable to select the subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison by:

identifying a predetermined number of highest ranked metric ratings; and

selecting the signals corresponding to the highest ranked metric ratings.

19. A system for managing a multicast conference call, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of signals at a local endpoint participating in a multicast conference call among the local endpoint and one or more remote endpoints, the plurality of signals comprising a local signal and one or more remote signals, the local signal associated with the local endpoint, each remote signal associated with a remote endpoint of the one or more remote endpoints;

means for determining a plurality of metric ratings, each metric rating reflecting an importance of a signal of the plurality of signals, the plurality of metric ratings comprising a local metric rating and one or more remote metric ratings, the local metric rating corresponding to the local signal, each remote metric rating corresponding to a remote signal of the one or more remote signals;

means for comparing the local metric rating and the one or more remote metric ratings; and

means for selecting a subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison in order to manage the multicast conference call.

20. A method for managing a multicast conference call, comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals at a local endpoint participating in a multicast conference call among the local endpoint and one or more remote endpoints, the plurality of signals comprising a local signal and one or more remote signals, the local signal associated with the local endpoint, each remote signal associated with a remote endpoint of the one or more remote endpoints;

determining a plurality of metric ratings, each metric rating reflecting an importance of a signal of the plurality of signals, the plurality of metric ratings comprising a local metric rating and one or more remote metric ratings, the local metric rating corresponding to the local signal, each remote metric rating corresponding to a remote signal of the one or more remote signals, the plurality of metric ratings determined by:

establishing one or more metric values for a signal of the plurality of signals according to a metric appended to the signal;

determining a metric rating for the signal in accordance with the one or more metric values;

generating a metric vector for each signal of the plurality of signals; and

determining a metric rating for each signal of the plurality of signals in accordance with the metric vector for the signal by applying a function to each metric vector;

comparing the local metric rating and the one or more remote metric ratings;

selecting a subset of the plurality of signals according to the comparison in order to manage the multicast conference call by:

identifying a predetermined number of highest ranked metric ratings; and

selecting the signals corresponding to the highest ranked metric ratings;

mixing the remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals;

outputting the mixed remote signals of the subset of the plurality of signals;

determining if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal; and

transmitting the local signal if the subset of the plurality of signals comprises the local signal.